



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CITY OF ELKHART COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS #4 AND #30 ABATEMENT PROJECTS STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT WW 09 30 20 01

DATE: August 4, 2009

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: September 4, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the wastewater project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA, which can also be viewed at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/>.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The CWSRF has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 4-4-11, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FNSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the deadline date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FNSI; if appropriate, a new FNSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be effected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

Max Henschen
Senior Environmental Manager
State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-8623; mhensche at ifa.in.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: City of Elkhart
CSOs #4 & #30 Abatement Projects
229 South Second Street
Elkhart, IN 46516

SRF Project Number: WW 09 30 20 01

Authorized Representative: Dick Moore, Mayor

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) #4 project area extends along McDonald Street from Grand Avenue east to Belmont Street, then south along Belmont Street to past Oxford Street.

The CSO #30 project area includes Williams and Charles streets and portions of Madison and Princeton streets, as well as Aspenwald Avenue between Madison and Prairie streets.

Both project areas are in Concord Township, Elkhart County, and are located within the Elkhart USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle, Section 9, Township 37 North, Range 5 East; see Figure 1.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Elkhart has a combined sewer system--sewers carry a mix of stormwater and sanitary wastewater. CSO #4 services a stormshed basin of approximately 36 acres of residential land, containing 117 structures. This CSO averages 25 overflows into the Elkhart River annually. A storm sewer along Grand Avenue bisects the basin and connects to CSO #4, but this sewer serves only a portion of the stormshed. This project will eliminate CSO #4, a high priority outcome in the city's CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP), which has been approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

CSO #30 services a stormshed basin of approximately 64 acres containing 209 homes, 12 businesses and an elementary school. This CSO averages 23 overflows annually. There is no dedicated storm sewer in this basin. This project will not eliminate CSO #30, but will reduce the frequency and volume of discharges from CSO #30. The elimination of CSO #30 is also a high priority in the city's CSO LTCP, and it will be addressed as part of the Prairie Street Overpass project to be constructed after the city has secured funding and acquired rights-of-way.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To eliminate CSO #4, the city will install 2,175 feet of storm sewer ranging in size from 12- to 30-inches in diameter, and 80 feet of 21-inch sanitary sewer along McDonald Street, from Grand Avenue to Belmont Street, and then south on Belmont Street to Oxford Street. Additional inlets will be installed along Belmont Street.

To reduce the volume and frequency of CSOs from CSO #30, the city will install 3,925 feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer and 4,905 feet of storm sewer, ranging in size from 12-inch to 36-inch in diameter. The storm sewer will be connected to the 36-inch outfall on Charles Street, east of Princeton Street. The sanitary sewer will continue to drain north on Princeton Street, from Charles Street to Aspenwald Avenue.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

Construction Costs

CSO #4 Sewer Separation	\$ 875,605
Contingencies (10%)	<u>87,600</u>
CSO #4 Sub-Total	\$ 963,205
 CSO #30 Sewer Separation	 \$ 2,697,002
Contingencies (10%)	<u>269,800</u>
CSO #30 Sub-Total	\$ 2,966,802
 Construction Sub-Total	 \$ 3,930,007

Non-Construction Costs

Design Engineering	\$ 257,557
Construction Engineering	172,000
Financial	25,000
Legal	<u>10,000</u>
Non-Construction Sub-Total	\$ 464,557

Total Project Cost \$ 4,394,564

- B. Elkhart will finance the project with a 20-year loan from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program at an interest rate to be determined at the time of loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

No Action: The “no- action” alternative would result in untreated sewage continuing to overflow into the Elkhart River during storms. This alternative is not consistent with the LTCP and was rejected.

Optimized Operation: This alternative was rejected, since the city has already implemented the requisite nine minimum controls to optimize operation of these CSOs.

Sewer Separation: This alternative proposes installing separate storm and sanitary sewer systems to eliminate CSO #4 and to reduce the frequency and volume of discharges from CSO #30. This is the selected alternative.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Undisturbed/Disturbed Land: The proposed improvements will occur entirely beneath paved streets.

Structural Resources (Figures 2 and 3): The project will not will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties. Any visual, audible or atmospheric effects will be temporary. Sidewalks and curbs will be replaced. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

Surface Waters and Wetlands: The project will not negatively affect surface waters or wetlands. The Elkhart River is listed on the May 30, 2007 Natural Resources Commission Non-Rule Policy Document: *Outstanding Rivers List for Indiana*, Information Bulletin #4, second amendment.

100-Year Floodplain: Project implementation will not affect the 100-year floodplain.

Groundwater: Connection to the sanitary sewer at Tipton Street and Charles Street, as well as construction of part of the sanitary sewer on Charles Street will require dewatering. Due to the close proximity to the Elkhart River, dewatering procedures will include a requirement for settling basins to ensure that no solids or sediment are released into the river.

Plants and Animals: The construction and operation of the proposed project will not affect state or federally listed endangered species or their habitat.

Prime Farmland: The proposed project will not convert any farmland.

Air Quality: Air quality will be temporarily impacted by construction activities, including vehicle and equipment exhaust, dust, and noise. Construction activities will occur during normal business hours.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The proposed project will neither create nor destroy open space and recreational opportunities.

B. Indirect Impacts

The city's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *The potential to cause secondary impacts is not anticipated. The City will require new development and treatment projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department Environmental Management and other environmental review agencies.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated May 11, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicated that the projects *do not pose a substantial threat to the St. Joseph Sole Source Aquifer System....*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, in correspondence dated May 19, 2009 stated: *The project to separate the storm and sanitary components of the combined sewer system...will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The city's PER states: *Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented. Mitigation measures, such as silt fences, will be required as part of the project to address erosion and siltation concerns. Dust will be controlled by periodic watering of the construction area as needed.*

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed Public Hearing was held on April 7, 2009 at 9:00 am at the Council Chambers – Municipal Building, 229 South Second Street. Members of the general public did not attend. There were no written comments received by the utility during the 5-day period following the public hearing.

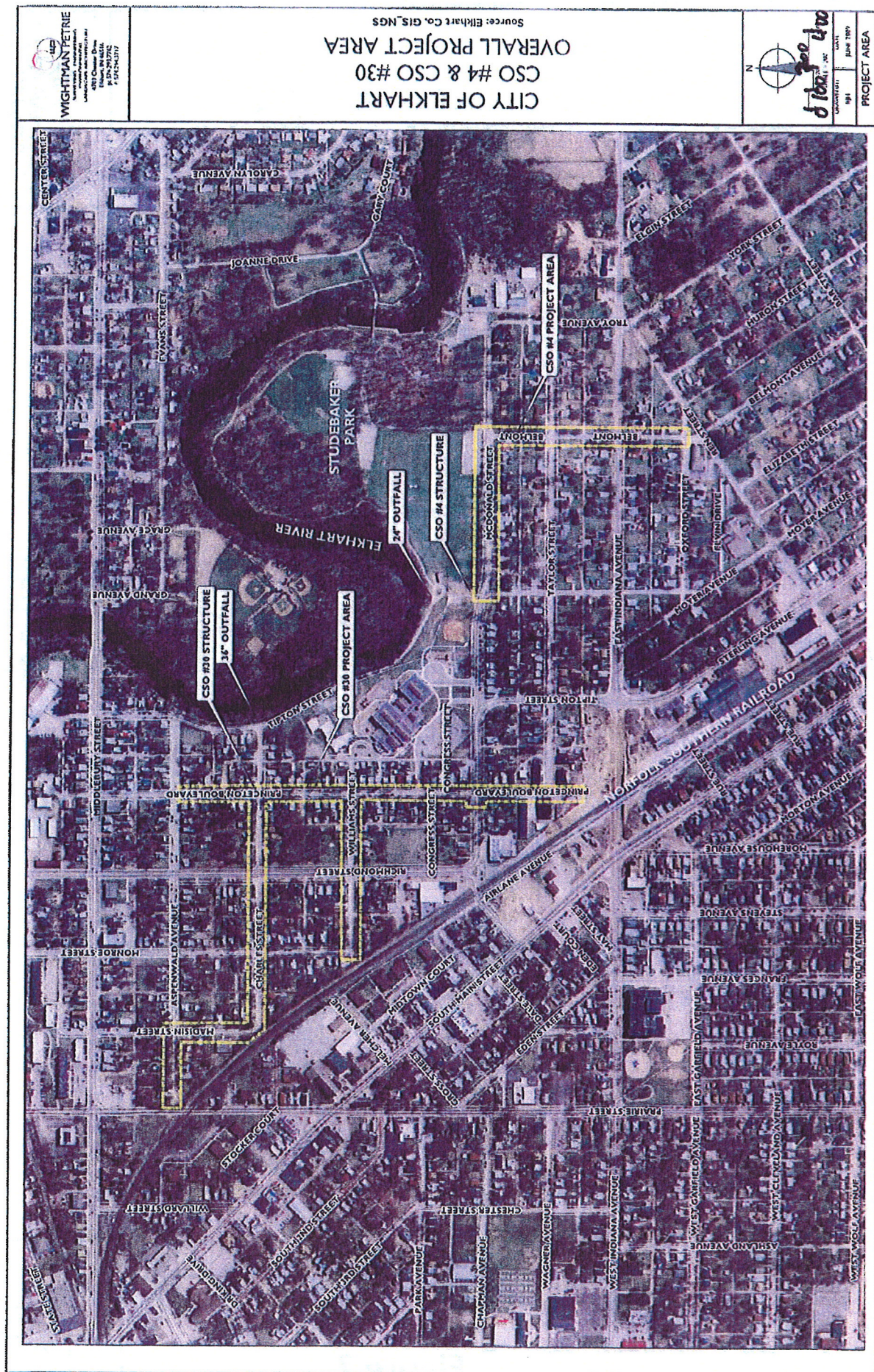


Figure 1 Project Areas

Elkhart Scattered Sites Map 6 (33341-380)

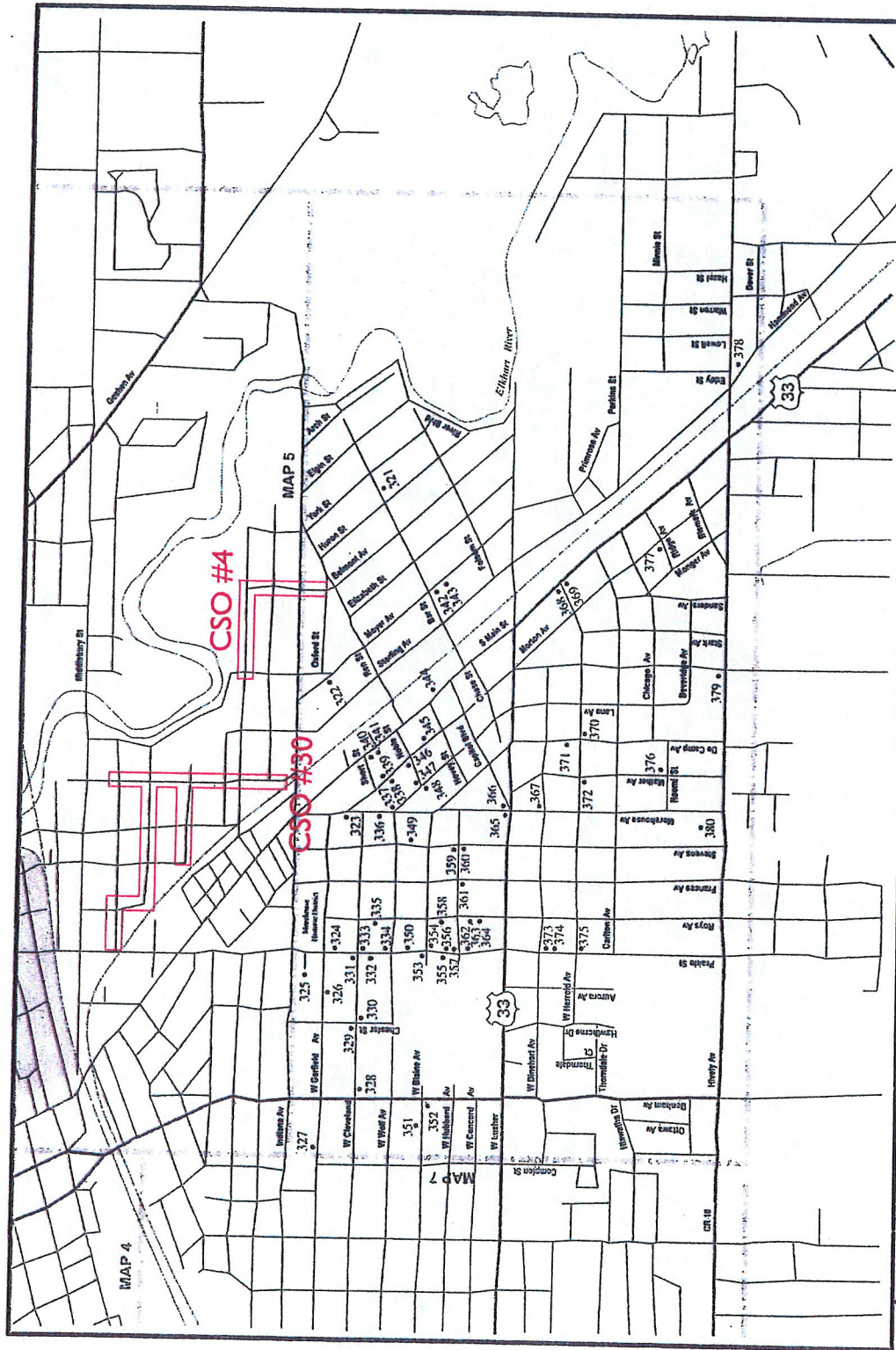
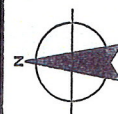


Figure 2



NOT TO SCALE

DRAWN BY: RIH
DATE: JUNE 12 '09

Figure 2

CITY OF ELKHART CSO #4 & CSO #30 HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Source: Elkhart County Interim Report of Historic Sites and Structures

Elkhart Scattered Sites Map 5 (33261-320)

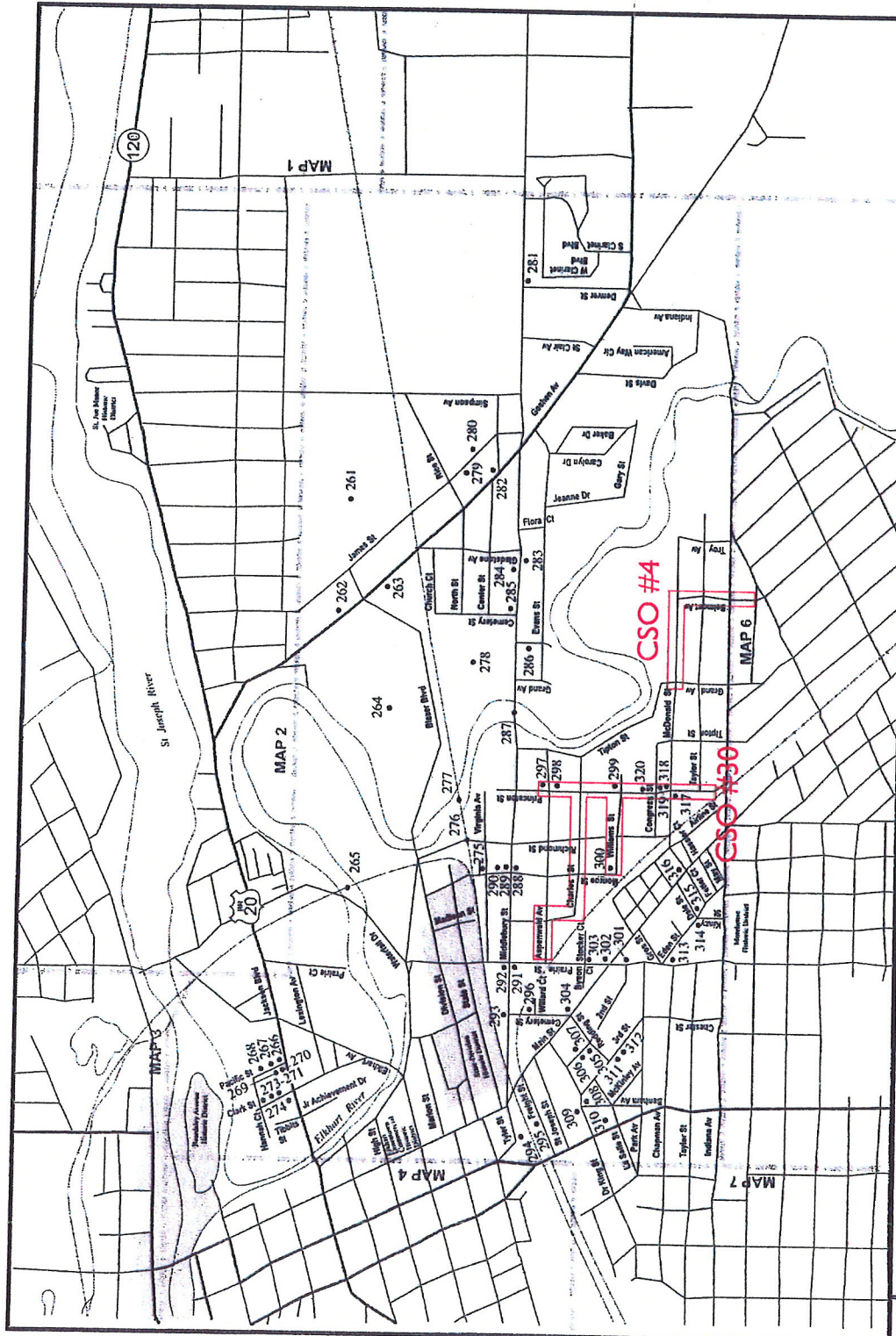
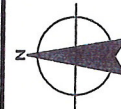


Figure 3



NOT TO SCALE

DRAWN BY: R/H
DATE: JUNE 12 '09

Figure 3

CITY OF ELKHART
CSO #4 & CSO #30
HISTORIC STRUCTURES
Source: Elkhart County Interim Report of Historic Sites and Structures

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